

new

WHY SHOULD I ORGANIZE MY
NEIGHBORHOOD?

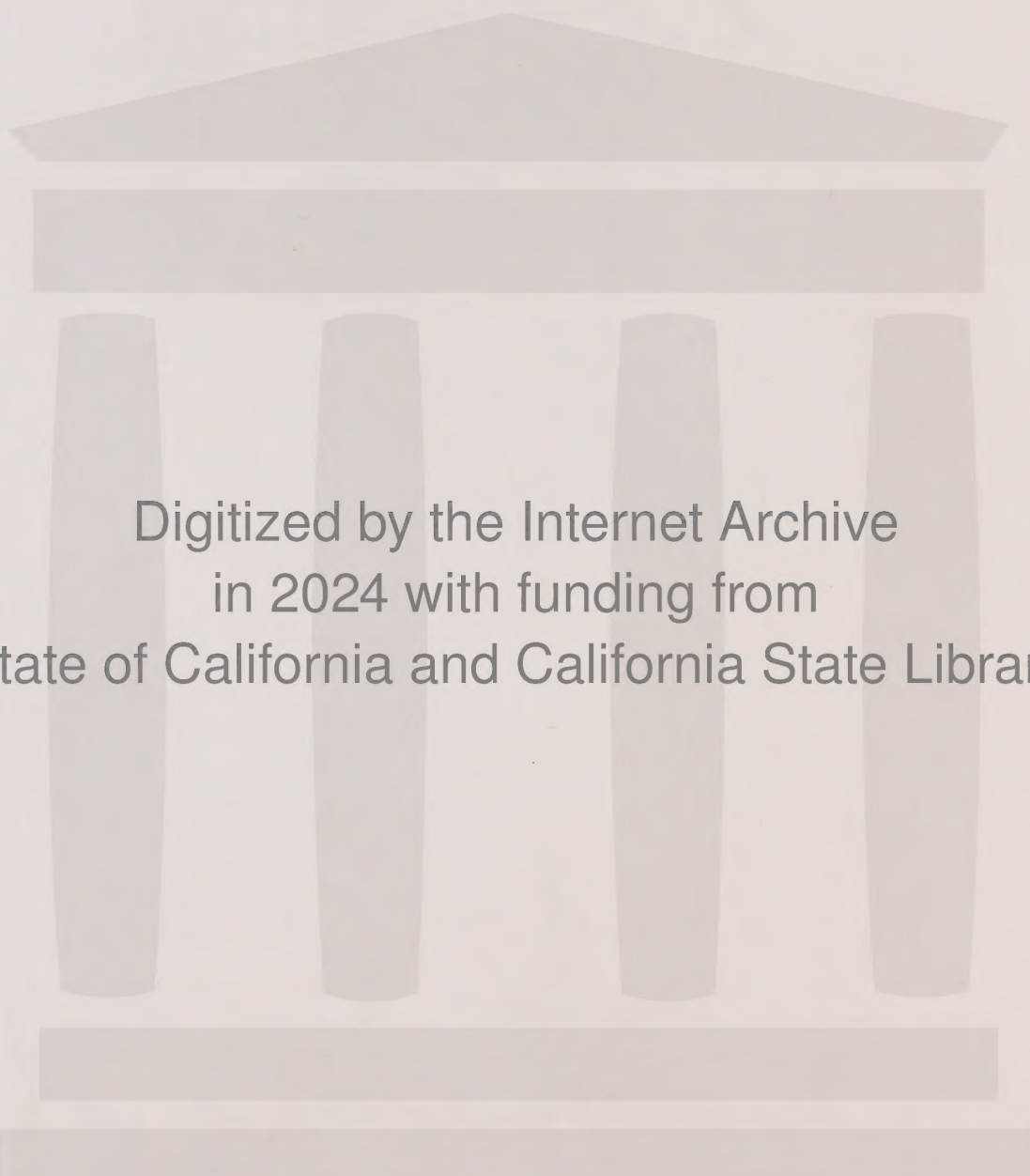
HOW DO I GET STARTED.....?

YOU can make the positive difference
in your neighborhood

B. Police Dept. ?

PROVIDED BY
CRIME PREVENTION
HALL OF JUSTICE
BERKELEY, CALIF.

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How to organize my block.....

for a friendlier and safer place to live.

Crime starts in the neighborhood and an organized neighborhood can prevent crime.

Step I.

. Contact 2 or 3 of your neighbors and tell them why you are interested in organizing the neighborhood. Ask them for their ideas.

. Invite neighbors for coffee that seem interested in getting something started.

Step II.

. When planning group get together³

- designate how large an area you wish to include in block program.
- put together invitation for residents with date, time, place and purpose. (Invite neighbors personally and invite two to three times as many as you can accommodate.)

Step III.

. What to do at the first meeting.

- discuss the importance of neighborhood unity and responsibility.

- How neighbors can cut crime
 1. Watching out for one another
 2. Report suspicious activities
 3. Mark their property with Operation I.D.
 4. Lock doors and windows
- can come up with solutions to neighborhood problems.
(Group power is very effective, individual power can be ignored.)
- improve the quality of life in your neighborhood
by knowing each other and learning to work together.
- designate responsibilities to interested residents
 - block leader
 - assistant block leader
 - secretary
 - program chairperson
- (the more responsibilities you assign the stronger your group will be)

Questions that might be addressed to group:

- how often should we meet?
- youth involvement? how?
- what other neighborhood organization exists?
- others?

I D E A S

to keep your block organization going and growing

Encourage prevention techniques.....

- . Research inexpensive ways to secure homes on block and share information
- . Report crime to police. Keep record of time, date of your call and follow through to see that positive action is taken.
- . Encourage everyone to participate in Operation Identification. (block could purchase pen)
- . Encourage everyone to keep front porch light on
- . Invite patrolman on the block to meet residents and exchange ideas.
- . Encourage residents to watch each other's house (take in mail, mow lawn, etc. during vacation)

Keep interest going....

- . Write and distribute a block letter
- . Draw up a block map with residents names (include children), addresses, phones, etc.
- . Look out for seniors, arrange escort to banks, shopping, clinics, etc.
- . Welcome new neighbors personally, and invite them to the next meeting.
- . Put up community bulletin board on street corner or in area group agrees upon.

- . Contact Library to see if films are available for block gathering.
- . Arrange visit and take block sympathy card or gift to those who aren't feeling well in neighborhood.

Work out neighborhood problems....

- . Establish a committee to follow up and try to mediate neighbors complaints concerning dogs, trash, loud music, landlord neglect, etc.
- . Let persons engaged in hurtful and illegal activities on the block know that you, as a group, are aware of what they are doing and how the neighborhood feels about it.
- . Arrange a meeting with an adjoining block or two concerning a common problem.
- . Identify causes of block deterioration: pot holes, rats, drugs, abandoned houses, juvenile delinquency, etc. Research the problem/call in city agency for help.
- . Organize a street clean-up, arrange for city to pick up trash.
- . Stencil house numbers on curb for better visibility for emergency vehicles. (ask for donation for block group?)

Make your meetings interesting and educational....

- . Invite: judges
public defenders
district attorneys
district supervisor
crime insurance expert
health services expert
rape crisis expert
school representative

Your neighborhood may have talent/resources to share....

- . Establish equipment file: neighbors may have equipment or tools they would share with block group members.
- . Establish talent file: neighbors may have skills and talents to share. Example: TV fixit man share s skills in neighborhood and invites interested youngsters to watch and learn.

Involving youth at all levels and responsibilities....

- . Encourage young people to participate and share their ideas and needs.
- . Have them plan programs they think would be important.

Block participation....

- . Organize a block party or barbecue or pot luck supper.
- . Arrange to block off the street for play day (check wtih (police department); invite all neighbors
 - volley ball game/or other games
 - raffle or dessert sale
 - clothesline exhibit of children's drawings
 - flea market sale
 - fund raiser
- . Hold a holiday craft and recipe sharing celebration: invite neighbors to teach and demonstrate.
- . Organize outing for the block youth or children to a museum, swimming pool, ball game, zoo, etc.

A caring, sharing, responsible neighborhood helps to produce caring, sharing and more responsible young people.



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